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Outlaws sweep district meet titles

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Tradition and gutsy performances carried the Sisters Outlaws boys cross-country team to a thrilling one-point victory at the Sky-Em District cross-country meet on Wednesday, October 21.

The girls team won in dominating fashion, which means that both squads have a berth at the OSAA State Championships set for Saturday, October 31.

The Outlaws are no strangers to being the district champions as both teams are on four-year winning streaks, but never before has Sisters produced the boys and girls individual champions in the same year until now, making the day historic.

Sophie Borders pulled away in the second half of the girls race on her way to a convincing victory — over 20 seconds, in 20:41 — leading her team to an easy win as all seven team members placed in the top 10.

In the boys race, senior T.J. Hooks shot from the line to the lead, and no one challenged him. He ran alone for the entirety of the 5,000-meter

course, finishing in 16:34, over 40 seconds ahead of the runner-up, Konrad Raum of Cottage Grove.

Hooks performed as expected, but the hope for the team to defend its title rested on the next four scorers in what everyone expected to be an epic battle with the Elmira Falcons.

“We had no room for error,” said Coach Josh Nordell. “Each runner had to do his job for us to have any chance of staying close to Elmira, which everyone considered the pre-race favorite.”

Things looked dicey in the first mile, as number-two runner Jordan Pollard passed by with a brow furrowed in pain from a side ache, but the sophomore pushed through it and the pain subsided in the final mile allowing him to hold on to sixth place.

Next came Izaak Kanzig, whose job was to be as close to Elmira’s third and fourth runners as possible. Kanzig, who had not had a breakthrough race all season, actually found himself trailing Elmira’s number two and three runners and locked

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PHOTO BY HARRY POLLARD

T.J. Hooks ran for an individual and team title.

Quietly fighting hunger among students

By Erin Borla
Correspondent

The story of poverty has been told in many different ways throughout Sisters Country and Central Oregon. It’s hard to imagine in a community like Sisters that there are families who struggle with basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing. The numbers are telling: 19 students in Sisters School District are homeless.

“This is one of the highest number of homeless students to start the school year with,” says Dawn Cooper, McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison and one of two advocates for the Family Access Network (FAN) here in Sisters.

A fact sheet on poverty in Sisters is available with the online version of this story at www.nuggetnews.com.

In a district of just over

See **POVERTY** on *page 18*

Sisters continues to grapple with housing

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Affordable housing continues to be an issue of intense interest in Sisters.

During a joint workshop of the Sisters City Council and the Planning Commission last week, Patrick Davenport, community development director, brought both bodies up to date on the progress of a comprehensive Sisters housing needs assessment being conducted by City staff.

Davenport presented a

preliminary report of the findings, although work is ongoing in a number of different areas. The analysis is in support of various studies required to update the City’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It also provides policy recommendations to Council, which are intended to support construction of appropriate levels of affordable housing within the city. The housing needs analysis is based on research from various sources

See **HOUSING** on *page 28*

New bike park opens in Sisters

Sisters cyclists have a brand-new playground in Sisters. Phase 1 of the Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) Community Bike Park is now open to the public.

The bike park is the product of about a year of community effort. A core group of volunteers have been working as a committee of SPRD to try to bring this concept to reality, according to SPRD Executive Director Liam Hughes.

The committee, along with Hughes, wrote and presented a grant proposal to the Oregon State Parks Local



PHOTO PROVIDED

Volunteers put together a pump track for riders at SPRD.

Government Grant Program. The project, while recognized for its merits, fell just outside the funding line in this

cycle and was not funded. So, the group reevaluated the

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